



N6NKS

STEPHEN P MC GREEVY

PO BOX 75

KEELER, CA 93530-0075

USA

QSL: paper - SASE optional but preferred

Email: Use mouse to view..



Premium Subscriber Lookups: 7800 Label

Biography

Detail

Logbook

Web 90

The longtime owned and operated TCS-13 (c. July 1944) (on the Ham bands since mid-April 1986) and presently - mainly 160m CW.



Update November 2023: A big collection of my Ambient and Acoustic/Experimental Field-Recordings of interesting audio: <https://archive.org/details/unusual-field-recordings-spmcgreevy>

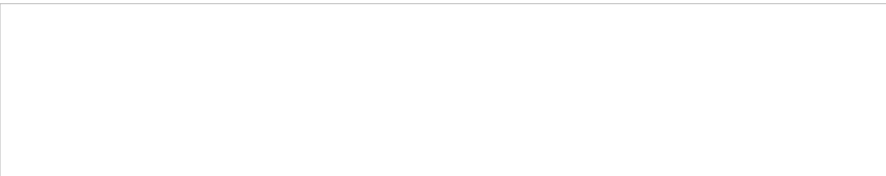
Update September 2023: I most enjoy 10m FT8 decoding Android based Samsung S10\_ and the "FT8 Decoder" app. for propagation study and analysis and for amazment at the sheer 10m FT8 DX coming in. 11-meter spectrum listening for entertainment and the total AM/SSB mode of voiced-wackiness plus prop. studies there, also. My auralchorus site is still not online pending a big re-write coming... otherwise, all of my recording archives are at Internet Archives. Please send IA a donation should you find it all worthwhile! I do - regularly.

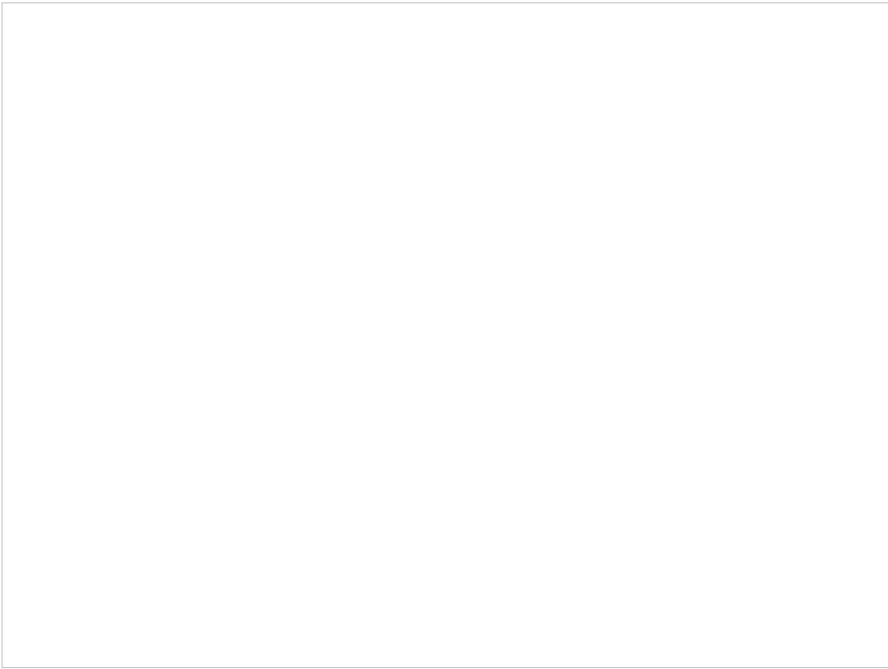
01 August 2023 updated photos of the radio-lab/shop building - Station-A op. location...



Night moon-light photo (near full-moon):

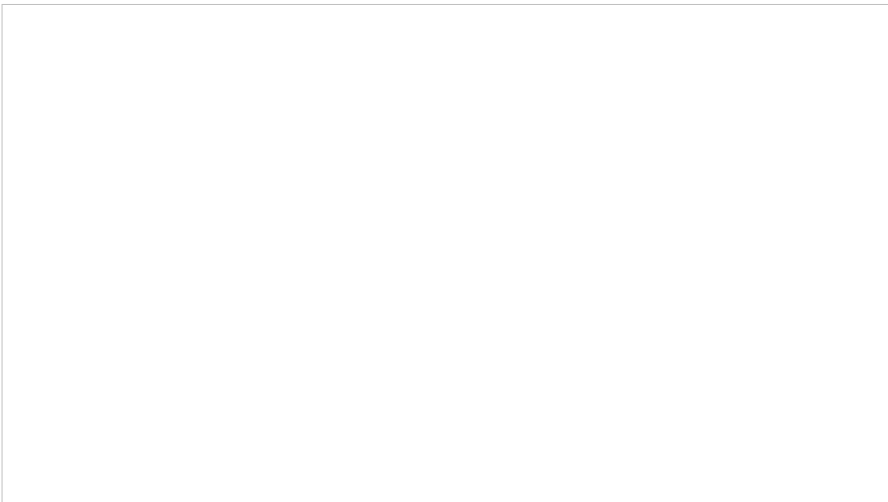
The various N6NKS antennas as of 11 January 2024...





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I have (for over 40 years) loved and still love remote camping and doing radio-science and hiking! ---

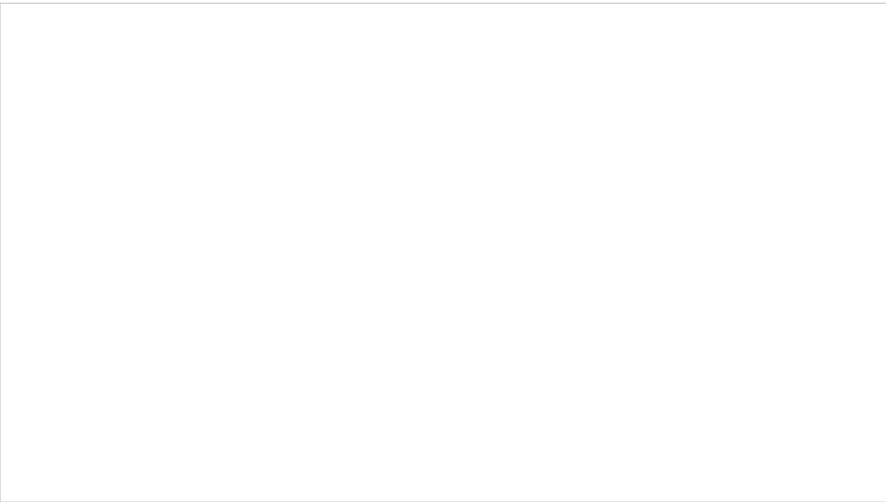


THIS fellow is a friend doing very-excellent work in Marin County and for the K6KPH KiwiSDR - Mr. Richard Dillman. I have enjoyed his 90.5 KWMR FM station when in rural Marin County since 2003 and even a bit earlier!


Well, there is another "KPH" who dwells deep in a gnarly desert locale I visited due to an attempt to escape the worst of Hurricane Hillary's remnants impacting the Great Basin - and June 2023 fun work with an assistant for the repeater site - not as nice a place as Point Reyes, by a big amount... but I went along for the ride. Later in late August, I went to escape the storm and then bailed outta TPH to go camping up in the Toquima Range of central Nevada listening to whistlers and lightning sferics and geneeral receiving DXing, also. Hikes galore... so this is the other KPH but not as swell:

Below:

Working into the N6NKH 147.42 simplex (talk-back) repeater near Tonopah, NV from way up in the Toquima Range. 5 watts with my UV-5R HT (shown here) got me into the repeater quite readable with just some FM noise... (over those distant mountains behind it's antenna...



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1987 photo of 375 EMC Winnemucca, Nevada NDB

I very-much enjoy Longwave (LF) Dxing between 40 kHz up past the top frequencies of the NDB Band, including the below 540 kHz section. Archival recordings are at this page "Non-Directional Beacons: The Ending of an Epoch" <https://archive.org/details/non-directional-beacon-essay>

June 2023: I have acquired an Icom IC-726 rig to get back on 6 meters after a three year hiatus - I'm very happy to be back into 6 meters for the coming Es season and F2 work! In early May 2023 I tested and setup the Icom IC-726 to a vertical 6m dipole and a modified CB antenna tuner - modified by installing a SPST switch to jumper half the pi-filter inductor of the CB tuner and I removed two 100 pF fixed caps for two max. 49 pF trimmer caps. This tuner mod. tunes-up the ICOM IC-726 nicely into the dipole antenna. I will mainly do CW and SSB on 6m. 5 grids worked via SSB on 6 meters via Es for 2023. 2 new Grid squares for 111 total since 2008. I also like decoding FT8 transmissions to my Samsung S10+ Android phone with FT8 decoding app. (FT8 Decoder) for amazing weak-signal to strong signal propagation monitoring. Listening to 50.313 MHz in USB mode, I can hear scores of Meteor-scatter (Ms) bursts, particularly on the mornings of 10 and 11 June 2023 - far more amounts on those days than could be noted via the former CH. 2-TV video carriers...

630m: I have removed the umbrella/pole vertical I used for the 630m A1A/CW beacon. I will not be doing any more A1A 630m transmissions from Keeler. My experiments were very successful!

I am enjoying good 10m contacting now with my TS-440S and intend to do POTAs work once I can qualify.

Warmer nights in Spring 2023 (May) see me out listening to ELF-VLF "natural radio" once again, as very little VLF "natural radio" listening had been done this past winter but the milder nights really help me to more comfortably go out and capture whatever is happening, such as whistlers, and so forth.

NATURAL RADIO COMPENDIUM AT INTERNET ARCHIVES: <https://archive.org/details/natural-radio-compendium-spmcgreevy>

Recent 2022 and 2023 radio DX and natural-radio recordings are here: [https://archive.org/details/lightning\\_elf\\_vlf\\_q-bursts](https://archive.org/details/lightning_elf_vlf_q-bursts)

Website: [www.auroralchorus.com](http://www.auroralchorus.com) ["The Music of the Magnetosphere" - ver. 4] - OFFLINE UNTIL JUNE 2023

Updated 17 Nov. 2021:

17 Nov. 2021 - The 474.72 kHz A1A "N6NKS" 630m beacon is being heard Q5 on the Point Reyes KPH KiwiSDR Marconi 100m type antenna, it is quite-strong there 'till past sunrise. I run this beacon only occasionally so as not to be a pest signal but for propagation observations and for non-hams to enjoy, also (potential hams). Also was prominent on the northern Utah WebSDR

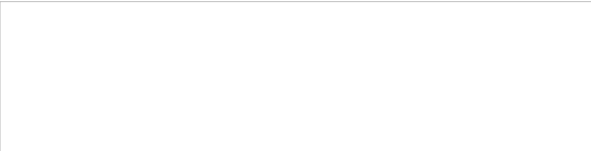
NOW: (17 Nov. 2021 onward for a spell-- the 474.72 beacon will resume for a few hour spells of on-times after the 186.19 kHz LowFER beacon phase is completed by early Dec.) - I am trying to get my 186.19 kHz LowFER beacon transmitter ("RR-dash") to be heard at KPH (etc.) at dawn, and for some DX listening by me late at night on trips in the Inyo desert, and the LF-xmtr. will be transmitting "RR-dash" to the 186.19 kHz lowFER beacon A1A/CW transmitter on dawn-times coming... (in this I am making some antenna improvements. The recordings will be posted to:

<https://archive.org/details/KeelerFenceBeverage1>

630m operations (A1A) began April 2021: N6NKS-beacon on 630m/~474.72 kHz - 25 April 2021: 0200 to 0600 PT for the Summer - on some days. Beginning late local evening and past midnight (0700UT) into 26 April 2021 for it's first OTA night in years, I am hearing it quite well on the northern Utah Web-SDR #3 unit for 630m band and a ham-friend copies it well in NM at local dawn. ID is "N6NKS" (CW/A1A) and is on ~474.72 kHz from the evening until midnight/pre-dawn to post-dawn provided that I am home to monitor it (or if I awake before dawn I might run it for aural listening DXers and Hams...). THIS BEACON IS TO PROMOTE 630 LISTENING FOR EVERYONE POSSIBLE - perhaps a new ham will result for this unique "narrow-band" band!

The homebrew 630m A1A transmitter/beacon is a 4060 CMOS IC based (xtal) exciter with an FT-243 xtal. which is 16X the 474.72 kHz output frequency (~7595.5 kHz); ~60-65 watts DC-input to an IRF3415PBF (power) MosFET at about 95% efficiency (Class-E switching mode for high-efficiency) driven by a stacked-complimentary transistor pair.

RF from the final-amp. copper-clad board and drain tank-circuit goes to a BNC output jack on the rear of the unit's enclosure then to the RF ammeter, and then goes to a homebrew (concatenated) dual-coil variometer ~250 uH to ~350 uH whereby one coil slides into the other/larger (oatmeal container form) coil. This method works by an inductance-phasing method - the voltage "hot" side of the loading coils go to the relatively short 8m tall vertical antenna with 8 drooping-umbrella cap. wires as of November 2021 (see photos). RF voltage at the antenna feedpoint "hot" side is over 2.5 kV! (The Class-E switching MosFET transmitter powers down upon out of resonance or antenna disconnects - sa eries tuned/loading coil as described).

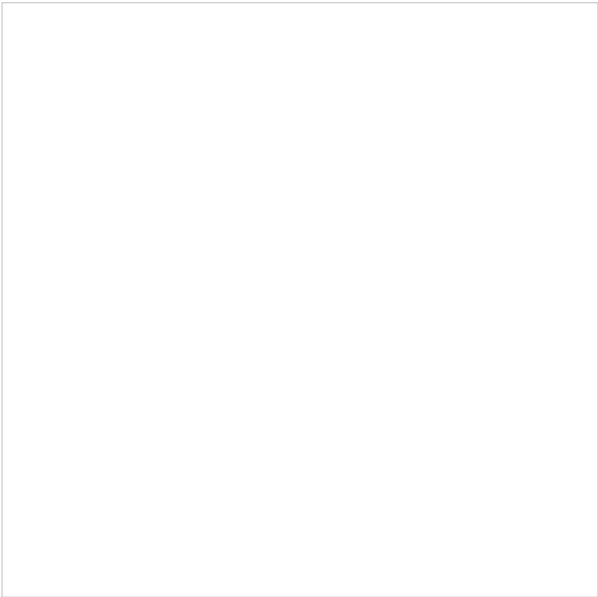




(630m beacon QSL above was sent to friend WB6EER in October 2021 for his listening in Hop Cyn., New Mexico on a 900 ft. NW Bev.)



472kHz.org suggested-630-meter-band Bandplan



A great band-plan for this cool 630m narrow-band band:

I PROPOSE AS OF NOVEMBER 2021 THAT 474.5 TO 475.0 BE AN A1A/CW BEACON BAND FOR LF DXING LIKE NDBs and 10m beacons. 1 to 5 WPM beacon idents A1A preferred. This would promote 630m band beacon DXing for all - have a "Heard Ten Grids 630" -and- "Heard 50 (100) Grids 630" awards... for example. As NDB DXing has been hugely popular (me too!), I think this would really make 630m shine! Thoughts... N6NKS 16 Nov. 2021.

\*\*\*\*\*630m!

\*\*\*\*\*630m!

The estimated EIRP (via a ~24 ft./8m pipe-vertical with 7-wire capacitance-hat (wire) umbrella) is about 100mW to 300mW ERP +/- (estimate based upon monitoring remotely via SDRs). My beacon is a QRP CW-A1A-mode beacon "old-school" type but great for lower-MF propagation observation w/o resorting to WSPR/PSK computing/decoding; the beacon's signal and QSB can be heard in real-time with one's ears (aural reception) on many WebSDR and KiwiSDR installations available; it also (I feel) helps promote 630m listening and hamming (!!) because for so many hours the band can seem otherwise "empty" of most signals/activity save for the faint-strong WSPR and PSK-carriers.

(The only other 630meter-band beacon heard on the Northern Utah Web-SDR in Spring 2021, for example (on 27 April 2021 at about 0500UT) was 478.0 kHz "WB6ZBX" Fresno, CA - about 10dB stronger than N6NKS 474.72 kHz CW at the time.)

I have lately been operating only a couple of hours weekly on the HF bands because of a deepening-interest in the deep-science of/and Unity of Electromagnetism physics research (and radio propagation research, too).

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I do a great amount of digital audio editing and recording archiving these days. I enjoy occasional 40m/60m/75m band operating, and I dabble in DX contacting. In 2018-present 2021 no 6m activity was done nor is planned. The 630m beacon will operate for those whom love lower MF as I do.

I continue to do research and receiver development in the ULF to VLF radio spectrum - more below in this...

I'm looking for a second QTH as an alternative hamming location, hopefully, for electrically-quieter operating, in the future (always procrastinating). I have newly acquired (Kenwood) transceivers for oping on 160m; 60m; but still not on 6m. I prefer CW/aural/SSB and AM voice contacts vastly over computer screen contacting automation.

Work and ongoing 2021 experimentation(s) in the SLF, ULF to VLF receiver-field is very fun, fascinating and rewarding, and I take deep-desert-research expeditions (far from AC lines) to test my ULF to VLF receivers and to do special DX-listening tests and ULF-VLF radio field-recording (Schumann Resonances and natural-radio in the ELF-VLF frequency ranges). I love LW/MW/SW-DXing too (using several desktop/tabletop receivers and portables).



(01 Nov. 2-21 barbed-wire Beverage antenna receiving-DX set-up in my 4Runner SW of Keeler.)

I was not operating any of 2018-2020 on 6-meters from DM16bl, nor will I likely be in DM16 nor on 6m in late-2021 either, but I hope in 2022.

I made my goal of 108 grid-squares worked from Keeler 2009 to 2017, and I can quality for 6m VUCC if I can ever get the logs together. I sold my TS-570 and TS-480SAT I used since 2008 and actually don't have a 6m rig now -- only an old Kenwood TS-520 for HF that I refurbished and still works almost like new; a Kenwood TS-440S and a Z-100 auto-tuner; Kenwood TS-180S; and my trusty TCS-13, as a stand-by AM/CW transmittie I also have several homebrew CW-QRP rigs I built beginning in 1987 to 2013).

6m grid squares worked 2008 to 2017

I wish I could ham-operate more and also report to DX clubs, but I am just too involved in ULF-ELF-VLF "natural radio" field-recordings and receiver development. I do some occasional LW/MW/SW DX listening mostly on local DXpeditions via Beverage antennas, etc. I have previously reported occasionally to Glenn Hauser's "World of Radio" / "WOR" and his "DX Listening Digest" (io-group) and web-sites. Glenn is TOPS! (I also occasionally report to the superb IRCA io-Group, also).

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(A great

whistler event morning of 13 June 2021 in the remote desert - photo by KC6NDC)

**ORIGINAL QRZ-BIO:**

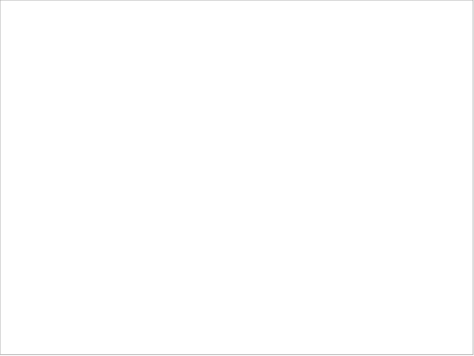
First Lic. in April 1986 as N6NKS after taking/passing Tech-level exam(s) in Los Altos Hills Foothill College ARC tests. I was almost able to pass the Gnl-class 13 WPM test but failed, so I passed it happily after 100 hours OTA with the TCS-13 I still have working as great today as ever!

I passed general Class Lic. in June 1986. I wish to keep my original-call as long as possible, or at least until it expires in 2026.

CW via my TCS-13 became an obsession, as I didn't have a SSB rig. I did some AM transmitting via the TCS-13 on 160m to Lower friends in Calif. and CW too, hrd. by friend Shel, N16E/KH6 (call reassigned later) in Hawaii, frequently. I didn't get into SSB until 1988, doing the Century Club WAS net(s). Fun!

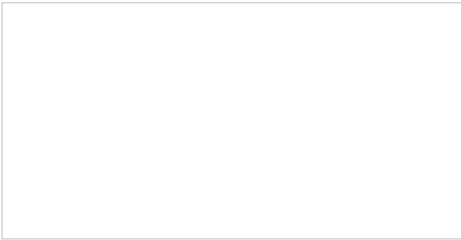
I love 6m and have worked 108 grids from this very hard location deep in a valley near high mountains--tough for low-angle 6m skip, but 2-hop/chordal-hop skip works sometimes for >4000 km distant 6m contacts. (Hawaii included, off side of beam to the Big island in Hawaii where I lived for 6 months total 1986 to '91). I continue to love LW, MW and FM-BCB DXing, plus I dabble a tad in SWBC DXing/listening and utility listening. I am not into attaching a computer to a ham-radio, only aural work is preferred, like it was around my birth, really! I do love spectrograms, however, for signal/audio analysis and the KiwiSDR system! I do pro-level field sound-recording and live musical-event recordings, also.

This ULF-ELF-VLF research and audio-recording is very fascinating to me... :



Auroral Chorus V: Sferics Anthology is my most recent ELF-VLF field-recording album at Internet Archives (2014 and onwards). Please see my bio below for info. about my VLF listening efforts.

See: <https://archive.org/details/AuroralChorusVSfericsAnthology>



This aurora photo above (Pentax ME Super/ ISO 200 for a few minutes) was taken in WARM weather August 1996 during my August 1996 Solar-minimum ELF-VLF "natural-radio" field-recording expedition to Manitoba, Canada. Gobs of audio-files available from my website link herein. see: [www.auroralchorus.com](http://www.auroralchorus.com)



Above at my ELF-VLF quiet location (little powerline hum) just 1.6 km / 1 mile west from my home in Keeler, California (DM16bl). I'm listening to stereo reception of lightning sferics at dawn July 2015. WR-9STL stereo-loop audio-band receiver shown with the loop-stand, and N6NKS.

ELF-VLF loop antennas

Above a view of the southern Inyo Mountains in the background and foreground view of dual-orthogonal Hifield Loop receiving antenna. Natural radio (ELF-VLF) in stereo!

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Below a stormy view of rustic radio building/shop/lab above - dense antenna farm...



Rustic radio-building/shop in Keeler - Summer 2015 (above) and various antenss including my 160m vertical with "spider-web-top capacitance-hat." 75m inv. L / inv. vee (2 for that band) and 40m inv. vee are in this pic also.

sunrise in 2001 at Joshua Tree Nat. park

Former QSL image above actually taken in Joshua Tree National Park before sunrise October 2001 or thereabouts.

Experimentation with big longwave (lower) beacon Summer 2013

183.5 kHz beacon test 2013. Mongo LOWfer beacon...

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(Photos not in-order of description: above picture of the two flourescent light bulbs is of a high-power LF transmitter test in my shop/lab in Keeler Summer 2013; a rainbow behind my various antennae; stereo-dual (orthogonal-orientation) ELF-VLF loop system at Centennial Flat, Inyo County, California 15 miles south-east of Keeler; sunrise in Joshua Tree National Park in 2001; warm-weather aurora taken during my August 1996 ELF-VLF field-recording expedition; myself in the desert Sept. 2010; the N6NKS Radio-Room in Keeler 21 June 2015; my QSL card image taken during a severe thunderstorm underlit by the Sun - no color adjustments were made (and more photos below...) - Stephen P. McGreevy - N6NKS - DM16bl)

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I am available actually, for a CW or SSB sked granted we can arrange it a week in advance and propagation allows! Seems I'm in a lot of cool 1V and videos these days and I'm happy to QSO you! 40m to 160m evening and night best times...

I am also frequently on California Amateur radio Net 7248 kHz LSB from 1100-1130 or so PT. see you there! SpM 07 Oct. 2016.

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I have kept my original license call / licensed as N6NKS (Technician class) April 1986/upgraded to General-class ticket in June 1986. Formerly a Marin County, Calif. native, I moved to Keeler, CA in February 1999.

My main ham-radio interest is SSB and (only very occasional - and only with a few friends CW QSOs) on 160 to 6 meters (102 grid squares on 6m (all via e-skip) since 2008: 6m long-haul/low-angle/multi-hop skip can be tough from my QTH surrounded by high mountains), and minimally, 2m and 70 cm band-FM simplex operation.

Most frequently, I operate 40m SSB and CW, and 6 meters during sporadic-e-skip season(s)...

Summer-time sporadic-E skip on 6m is very fun for me - openings have me at the radio, dropping all else! So far the shortest-sporadic-E skip worked on 6m SSB was to Terry, WA6HDX (DM12) on 50.143 MHz at 1815 UT on 20 June 2015 with strong-5/9 both ways. I was just using my 75m inv. vee. rather than my 4el. yagi. I sometimes prefer omni-antennas to directional beams on 6m if there are multiple openings. I love the Magic Band!

Radio Experimentation besides hamming: I have been at times heavily involved in the reception of very-low-("natural radio") frequency radio signals of Earth below 10 kHz. I also enjoy LW, MW, (ex.) analogue TV and FM broadcast DXing. I am well-known globally for my field-recordings of ELF-VLF "natural-radio." (Whistlers, chorus, etc.) I have been a "LOWfer" since 1985 (occasionally) on the 1750 meter experimental long-wave band, also.

Mediumwave (MW/AM) BCB DXing (especially long-haul trans-oceanic MWDX) remains one of my favorite aspects of radio-DXing, and I love to SWL on 60m, 49m, 41m and 31m too.

As previously mentioned, I also am particularly fascinated by sporadic-E skip (Es) on 6 meters, low-band TV, and the FM broadcast band, and study propagation phenomena in general. My website full of images and material related to natural ELF-VLF radio, radio DXing, travel, and photography is:

[www.auroralchorus.com](http://www.auroralchorus.com)

One of my favorite forms of "DXing" radio signals (besides, of course, the MW/AM BCB) is to monitor the longwave non-directional-beacon (NDB) band (190 to 435 kHz), which is where I learned Morse Code in the early 1980s - I did not use code-practice materials - only those CW beacons below the AM broadcast-band to learn code back then!

I also sometimes enjoy QRP and QRPp CW operating and building homebrew CW transmitters, beacons, crystal radios, MW-TRF receivers, ELF-VLF receivers (The WR-3) , and so forth.

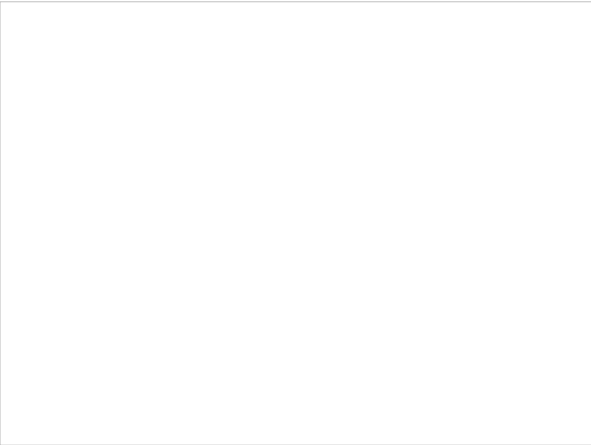
Generally speaking, I am a radio-nut and am fascinated by the study and research into electromagnetism.

Ham radio has allowed me to meet some very amazing people in my ham-operating, particularly on 40m and 6m.

73, Steve + N6NKS = DM16bl - Keeler, California (Inyo County)

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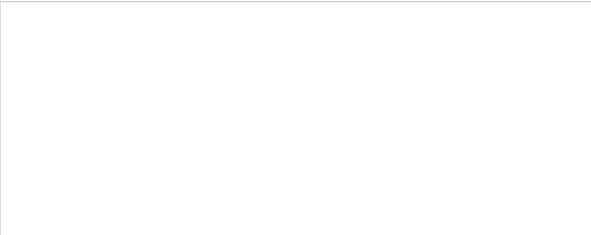
I love receiving paper QSL cards still -- No SASE required - I'll send you back one! I am working on LoTW soon, also.



VLF listening with loop receiver called the WR-11 near Darwin, California at dawn 16 June 2016.

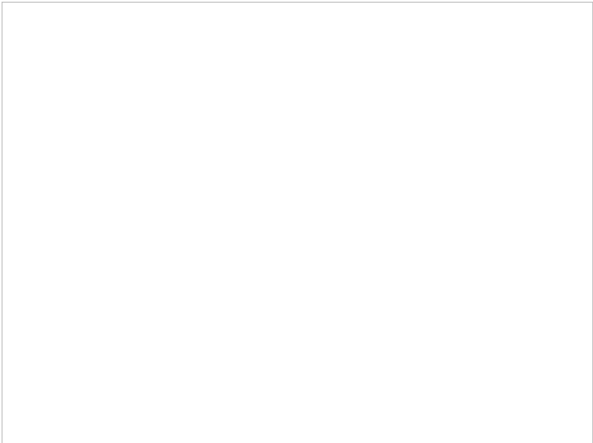


Above: Another picture of my VLF loop and WR-11 receiver - great whistlers right at this time just past sunrise 16 June 2016.

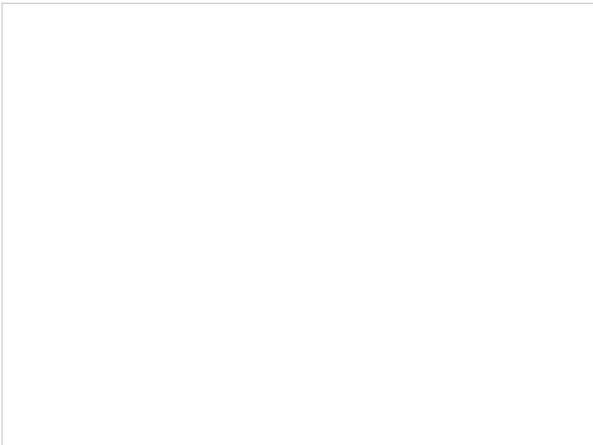




Above is the inside of one of a completed WR-9STL stereo-loop (H-field) ELF-VLF audio-band receiver – VLF in stereo (orthogonal loop system). June 2016. Employs 3-ohm loop input(s).



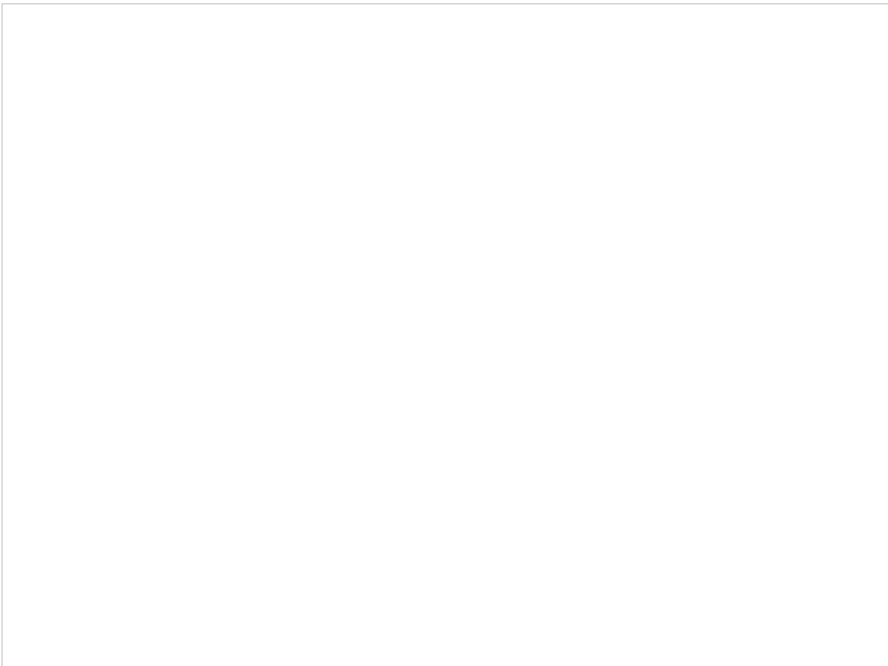
Echinopsis cacti (from Chile) in-bloom in my yard – April 2016 (above).



Another of my Echinopsis cactus plants in bloom June 2016. I love cacti!

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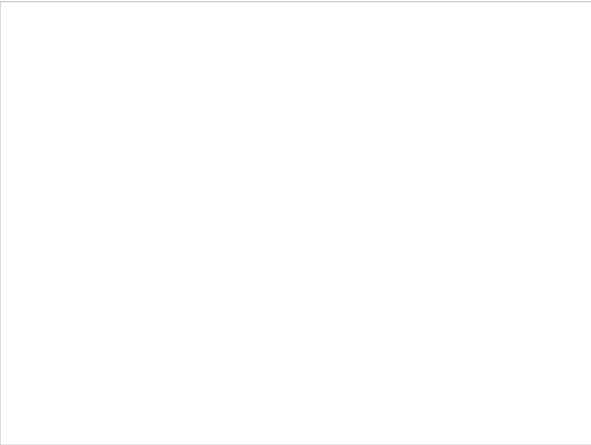
Professional field-recording audio-band (ELF-VLF) "natural-radio" in-van AF filter and AF amplifier unit "WR-4b" built in Sept. 1992:





Below:

WR-11SLR - 3.2 ohm small loop and e-field (dual mode receiver with Navy PRC unit speaker - for PRC-47 etc. xcvrs.) in the lovely high desert during a good whistler event:



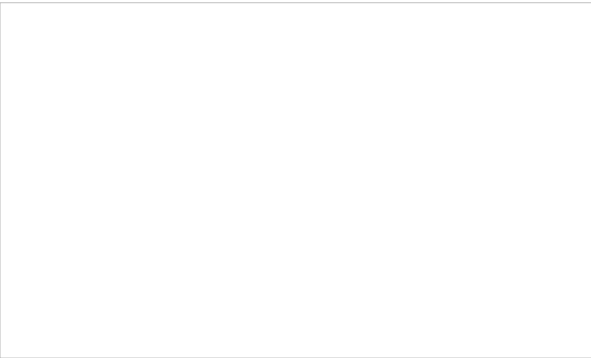
WR-11 dual-mode ELF-VLF audio-band receiver built Jan. 2016. Near Darwin, Calif. 30th May 2016. 7 turn open-loop (deltiod) hung in Joshua tree and very sensitive.



My occasional winter-time to spring-time LowFER beacon "R" on 182.448 kHz from Keeler QSL and antennas.

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Two cats I love and have loved... (Olaf tabby adopted at age 2 in May 2016 is my present buddy):



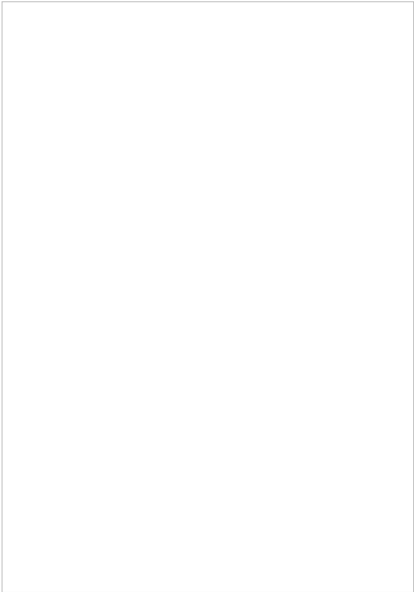
Rocky the Kwtin age 12 - his final year - pic taken March 2015, now a silent-purr.



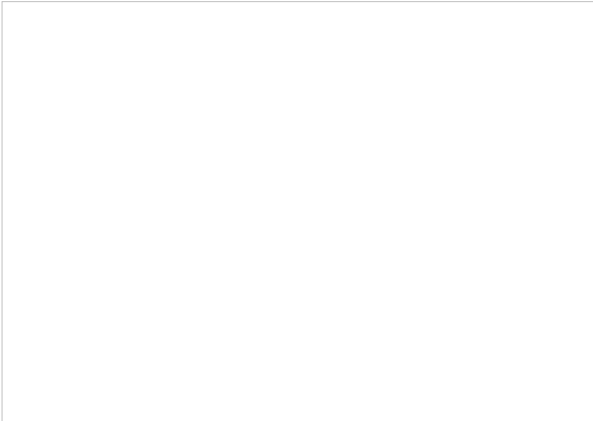


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Travel - North America and overseas... (Travel is the spice of life - so is ham radio...) N6NKS



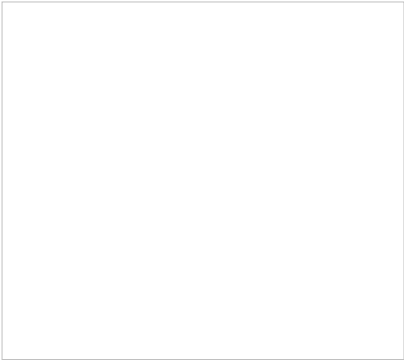
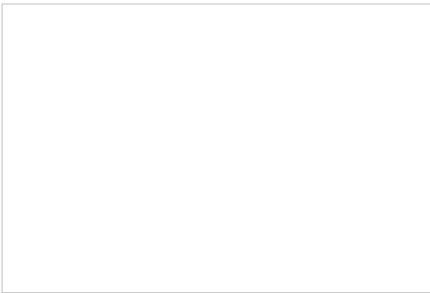
Eurasian Exotica...



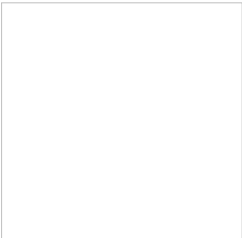
Copenhagen: One of a few cities in the world I'd like to actually reside in! Bicycle-friendly to the max!

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Aurora during travel to record VLF signals...



Above three VLF album covers – now all online available from my website (link farther above and right below)



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